

lem when representative men were present from the whole known world.

It was not by mere chance that the reformation, the invention of the printing press, and discovery of free America were all affected at about the same time. God's providences are evident in these events after the effects of the reformation were deeply rooted. After England was delivered from the thralldom of Rome, after America, the cradle of liberty had become well peopled, an age of genius and invention, enterprise and wealth dawned upon the world; simultaneously with that the doors of benighted heathen lands began to open. A hundred years ago there was not a Protestant missionary in any of the great heathen nations; today every one of them is open. Thibet having been penetrated under marvelous circumstances only last year.

In a little work by Dr. Pierson, entitled, "*The greatest work in the world*," he enumerates some things that transpired in the one year of 1858. During that year he says, "doors were opened giving access to one thousand millions of people. In that year Great Britain, after two hundred years of exclusion made her treaty with Japan. In that same year, China, by the treaty of Tientsin, threw open not only her ports, but her interior, and provided that any Chinese subject might embrace the Christian faith without molestation or persecution. In that same year India was transferred from the sordid East India Company to the British crown. In that same year Mrs. Elizabeth Sale of Scotland, found access to the Zenanas of Hindustan. In that same year the revelutionary changes in Papal Europe laid the basis of free Italy. In that same year David Livingstone sailed the second time for South Africa to complete the exploration of his pioneer path for missionaries. In that same year Benito Juarez in Mexico, overthrew the Monastic system, confiscated the estates and revenues of the Papal church, and opened the way for Protestant missions to enter Central America. In 1878 Dr. Pierson states there was such a mighty movement of God's grace in India that sixty thousand people turned from their idols in Tiunerelly and the Teluger country within six months. These are some of the wonderful providences of God.

The Psalmist said, why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against his anointed. * * * He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh, the Lord shall have them in derision. * * * Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

In the 111th Psalm he says, "He has shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen." These sayings have from time to time become literally true.

In 1839 at the crisis of missions the Sultan Mahmond said, "There shall not a repre-

sentative of the Christian religion remain in the empire." And Dr. Hamlin came into the house of Dr. Goodell, and said, "Doctor, it is all over now with us—we shall have to leave; the American Consul and the British Ambassador both say it is no use to meet with the antagonism of this violent and vindictive Monarch." Dr. Goodell heard the news with undisturbed serenity and quietly said, Dr. Hamilton, the *Sultan of the Universe* in answer to prayer can change the decree; they prayed and the next day the Sultan Mahmond died, and the decree has never been heard of since except in history.

Much the same thing happened in Siam in 1851 when a hostile king would not allow Christian missionaries to get premises in which to live, nor ground upon which to build, and scarcely suffer them to obtain lodging; they were only waiting for a vessel to carry them away, meanwhile they called upon God to interpose. God answered by smiting the king. When he was buried the question arose, who shall be his successor? The power of God was again invoked and the only man in the empire that had ever been trained by a Christian missionary was king. Since then Siam has been a Christian country, the king himself supporting Christian institutions.

Last year when D. W. LaLescheur with two other missionaries entered Thibet they were offered a military escort to carry them through the robber bands that infest the border mountains. They refused the offer and went forth under the immediate protection of Almighty God. Unconsciously and unexpectedly they landed right in the center of a robber camp. They leveled their spears or javelins at them, at the same moment the missionaries lifted their hats, sitting on their horses and invoked the protection of God. He answered immediately so that no evil befell them, and they passed through the border into the interior where they were well received and royally entertained by one of the Buddhas or gods which are worshipped.

The events of our late war with Spain are perhaps unparalleled in the records of history. The one sidedness of it cannot be accounted for in any other way, than God was in it, to open another door for the preaching of the gospel. Our soldiers recognized the hand of God. On one of our vessels this impression was so profound that there was a prayer and praise meeting held after Cervera's fleet was demolished. Even the Spaniards concluded that the God of heaven was against them.

This theme of God's providence is inexhaustible, but I must pass it by again referring to the Savior's words, "All power is given unto me, in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations."

If we are connected with Christ, our connection with him should constantly be growing closer, and the line of progress indicated by these three words: Believer, Disciple, Apostle; or their equivalents, Faith, Knowledge, Service.

Church News

Program.

State Ministerial Association and State Conference of the Brethren Church of Michigan to be held in the Campbell Brethren church, Barry County, Oct. 12, 13 and 14, 1898, beginning at 9:30 A. M.

MINISTERIAL

Devotional.

The Holy Spirit and his work, Elmer Weaver.

Church government, Walter Clark.

Romans 12:2-8, William H. Miller.

Missionary—Home and Foreign, John English.

Consecration and Sanctification, Pliney Erwin.

Church Ordinances, J. G. Winey.

Open or Close Communion, John Shank.

How can ministers best help each other in their work, George Clum.

Sunday-school work, C. A. Price.

The effects of Intemperance, Henry Neel.

GENERAL CONFERENCE, 9:30 A. M.

Opening exercises, J. G. Winey.

Address of welcome, Wm. H. Miller.

Response, Pliney Erwin.

Appointment of committees.

Report of committees—Executive and Program.

Report of secretary.

Report of treasurer.

Enrollment of delegates.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1:30

Thirty minutes prayer and consecration led by John Shank.

Shall we have a State Evangelist for the year 1899, John English. Discussion led by George Clum.

Is it consistent to the teaching of the gospel of Christ to use fermented wine at our communion meetings? Opened by Walter Clark. Discussion, J. G. Winey.

What shall we do with our isolated members? J. G. Solomon. Discussion, Bro. Reynolds.

SECOND DAY, 9:30

Opening exercises, Henry Neel.

Would it be well for the Brethren church of Michigan to have a tent to worship in where we have no church house, William H. Miller. Discussion led by John Shank.

Miscellaneous work.

Question drawer, Pliney Erwin.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1:30

Opening services, C. A. Price.

Sunday-school. The essential qualification of good Sunday school workers. (a) The superintendent, Mrs. Phebe Darby. (b) The teachers and other officers, J. P. Rensch. Primary work, Sister John English, Sister Camron.

7:00 P. M. Communion.

There will be preaching every evening during the conference at 7:30. All are cordially invited to be with us on the occasion, both from Michigan and other states.

COMMITTEE.

George Clum, Chairman.